

SENATE BILL 283

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5lr1793

By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Students With Financial Need – College Preparatory Programs – Exam Fee**
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county board of education from charging certain students
5 with financial need exam fees related to certain college preparatory programs; and
6 generally relating to fees for students with financial need for college preparatory
7 programs.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–205.1(a) and (c)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–205.1(g)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Education
20 Section 7–213
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7–205.1.

2 (a) In this section, “CCR standard” means the college and career readiness
3 standards established under this section.

4 (c) (1) (i) It is the goal of the State that students enrolled in public school
5 shall meet the CCR standard before the end of the 10th grade and no later than the time
6 the student graduates from high school.

7 (ii) It is the goal of the State that each student enrolled in public
8 school, regardless of the student’s race, ethnicity, gender, address, socioeconomic status, or
9 the language spoken in the student’s home, shall have equitable access to college and career
10 readiness and shall meet the CCR standard at an equal rate.

11 (2) A student shall meet the CCR standard when the student meets a
12 standard in English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science that
13 enables the student to be successful in entry level credit bearing courses or postsecondary
14 education training at a State community college.

15 (3) The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and the CCR standard established
16 under this section are not intended to alter the need for high quality programs and content
17 in fine arts, civics, physical education, and other areas that are necessary to provide a
18 holistic education and enable every student to be well–rounded and meet the CCR
19 standard.

20 (4) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department shall develop and begin
21 to implement a communication strategy to inform parents, students, educators, and the
22 wider public about the CCR standard developed under this section.

23 (g) (1) Subject to **§ 7–213 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND** paragraph (4) of this
24 subsection, [beginning in the 2023–2024 school year,] each county board shall provide all
25 students who meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with
26 access to the following post college and career readiness (post–CCR) pathways, at no cost
27 to the student or the student’s parents, including the cost of any fees:

28 (i) A competitive entry college preparatory program, chosen by the
29 county board, consisting of:

30 1. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program;

31 2. The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program; or

32 3. A comparable program consisting of Advanced Placement
33 courses specified by the College Board;

1 (ii) A program that allows a student, through an early college
2 program or dual enrollment at a student's high school and an institution of higher
3 education to earn:

4 1. An associate degree; or

5 2. At least 60 credits toward a bachelor's degree; and

6 (iii) A robust set of career and technology education programs that
7 are recommended by the CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee and approved by the
8 CTE Committee and that allow students to complete:

9 1. A credit or noncredit certificate or license program, course,
10 or sequence of courses, including a program, course, or courses taken through dual
11 enrollment under § 15–127 of this article, at a secondary or postsecondary institution,
12 through an Advanced Placement course at a secondary institution, or through an
13 apprenticeship sponsor that leads to an industry recognized occupational–credential or
14 postsecondary certificate;

15 2. A registered apprenticeship program approved by the
16 Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department
17 of Labor; or

18 3. A youth apprenticeship program, under Title 18, Subtitle
19 18 of this article.

20 (2) Each public high school shall provide access to the programs described
21 under paragraph (1) of this subsection through that public school or through another public
22 school in the county.

23 (3) (i) Each student who meets the CCR standard required under
24 subsection (c) of this section shall be enrolled in at least one post–CCR pathway described
25 in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26 (ii) Each student who enrolls in a post–CCR pathway shall remain
27 enrolled in the student's public high school.

28 (iii) Each public high school shall provide to every student, regardless
29 of whether the student is enrolled in a post–CCR pathway, the full range of services to
30 which the student is entitled, including:

31 1. Personal, career, and academic advising; and

32 2. Counseling, in accordance with § 7–126 of this title, to help
33 the student choose one or more post–CCR pathways, or courses within a post–CCR
34 pathway, that fits with the student's educational and career goals.

(iv) Priority for counseling and advising services described under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph shall be given to students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.

(v) Any high school graduation requirements that a student does not meet by the time the student has completed the assessment required under subsection (d) of this section shall be provided within the post-CCR pathway the student chooses.

(4) To phase in expansion of dual enrollment to maximize the number of students who can earn the maximum number of dual enrollment credits consistent with the phased increases in school funding, for fiscal years 2025 through 2027, the State Board and the Accountability and Implementation Board, in consultation with each local school system, may limit the number and types of courses that a student dually enrolled at the student's public high school and at an institution of higher education may enroll in during the school year at the institution of higher education as part of the post-CCR pathway in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection and § 15-127 of this article.

(5) (i) The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out this subsection.

(ii) The regulations shall include standards that:

1. Guarantee, to the extent practicable, statewide uniformity in the quality of the post-CCR pathways;

2. Meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection;
and

3. Require high school graduation credit to be awarded for any programs administered in accordance with this subsection.

7-213.

BEGINNING IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, A COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT CHARGE A STUDENT WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEAL PROGRAM IN THE STATE ANY EXAM FEES RELATED TO:

(1) THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM;

(2) THE CAMBRIDGE AICE DIPLOMA PROGRAM; OR

(3) A PROGRAM CONSISTING OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.